

Statements of witnesses, taken by Sheriff's Department.

Brennan, Howard Leslie. (19 H 470)

In this statement Brennan says he saw a man in the second row of windows from the top before the President's car arrived. "I did not notice anything unusual about this man. He was a white man in his early 30's, slender, nice looking, slender and would weight about 165 to 175 pounds. He had on light colored clothing but definitely not a suit. I proceeded to watch the President's car as it turned left at the corner where I was and about 50 yards from the intersection of Elm and Houston and to a point I would say the President's back was in line with the last window I have previously described I heard what I thought was a back fire. It run in my mind that it might be someone throwing firecrackers our the window of the red brick building and I looked up at the building. I then saw this man I have described in the window and he was taking aim with a high powered rifle. I could see all of the barrel of the gun. I do not know if it had a scope on it or not. I was looking at the man in this window at the time of the last explosion. Then this man let the gun down to his side and stepped down out of sight. He did not seem to be in any hurry. I could see this man from about his belt up. There was nothing unusual about him at all in appearance. I believe that I could identify this man if I ever say him again."

This statement was made at an unspecified time on the 22nd.

This affidavit says Brennan is 44, whereas the Commission in the report on page 63 placed his age as 45. At that point the Commission quotes a considerable embellishment on his first statement to the Sheriff.

Whereas in the affidavit he said "I could see all of the barrel of the gun. I do not know if it had a scope on it or not.", entirely

aside from the fact that the scope mounts on the barrel the Commission on page 63 of the Report quotes him as stating "he saw 70 to 85% of the gun".

One page 144 of the Report in quoting Brennan as an eye witness the Commission says his description "most probably led to the radio alert sent to police cars at approximately 12:45 P.M., which described the suspect as white, slender, weighing about 165 pounds, about 5'10" tall, and in his early thirties. In his sworn statement to the police later that day, (apparently a reference to this statement from the Sheriff's Department) Brennan described the man in similar terms, except that he gave the weight as between 165 and 175 pounds and the height was omitted."

Either way its not a description of Oswald/: 5'9", slender and 24 years old, 140 pounds. Source, Report, page 144. At the time of the autopsy/same source puts Oswald's weight at 150 pounds whereas in August the arrest record in New Orleans shows 136 pounds.

The "most probably" adverbial evasion of clear responsibility by the Commission is in itself- itself a great shock. There can be no excuse for the Commission not knowing exactly who probi provided the eye witness description, there can be no excuse for the police not being able to provide the identify. In any event this is not the description broadcast by the Sheriff's radio (17 H 371) "white male, thirty, slender build, 5'10", 155 lbs, possibly armed with 30-30 rifle." And the description broadcast on police channel one (17 H 397) "approximately 30, slender build, weight 5'10", 165 lbs----reported to be armed with what is believed to be a 30 calibre rifle." Also a light male.

Nor is it the description broadcast on channel 2 (17 H 464)

"white male, approximately 30, 165 lbs., slender build, armed with what is thought to be a 30-30 rifle." Immediately before this transmission the dispatcher asked "Any clothing description?" of Inspector Sawyer who according to Sheriff Decker was at the Depository. The dispatcher got none.

But Brennan had at least part of a clothing description. He said in this statement "He had on light colored clothing but definitely not a suit."

It is essential for the Commission to ignore this because Oswald was wearing a dark shirt.

Whatever other statements Brennan has subsequently given, his only statement from which the police could have made a broadcast before was a statement Brennan gave ~~for~~ the broadcast. This is the closest thing we have to that. It is not the description broadcast by any of the police radios and it is not the description of Oswald. It is not a description of Oswald's clothing either.

Not only would it not justify the Commission's evasion by saying "most probably" it can't even approximate "probably" without the "most"!

Also Brennan had no way of knowing as he said that the man was "just sitting". In addition the following statement by Brennan in this initial affidavit, "Then this man let the gun down to his side and stepped down out of sight." is an obviously false statement. It is a complete manufacture. Why? First of all the Commission and the police have gone to great effort to portray the structure built of boxes. These would have prevented any vision of what happened to the gun. And so far as "stepped down out of sight" is concerned the bottom of the window is less than a foot from the floor! If the

man in the window stepped down any place it had to be through the floor.

If Brennan did as he said "see this man from ~~about~~ about his belt up." the only way it was possible was for the man to have deliberately walked in front of the boxes he had stacked up or in front of another window, neither of which is supported by logic or other witnesses.

In fact the Commission itself disproves such a possibility except as a deliberate design in its own reconstruction of the crime the photograph on page 99 of the Report shows that the man behind the weapon had to be blocked from the view of Brennan or anybody else in that position by the wall of the building.

If however the man did deliberately make himself visible this took some time, especially because of the structure of the boxes that had been erected, and in turn this would affect the Commission's entire reconstruction of the time for escape. Already on one occasion the reconstruction puts a policeman on the second floor before Oswald!

So much for the first statement given by the man Congressman Ford, a member of the Commission, described as the most important witness to appear before it.